

LPHQ Hires New Volunteer Coordinator

By Andrew Davis

The Libertarian Party is proud to announce a new addition to the national staff in Washington, D.C. Austin Petersen has been hired as the new Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party. Petersen will be filling the role as a national coordinator of libertarian volunteers and activists. Additionally, he will be working closely with state affiliates from across the nation in order to improve their capabilities as a state Libertarian Party.

Previously from New York City, Petersen has spent the last four years producing, performing, writing and directing various productions in the NYC area, which have appeared in Time Magazine and on the Discovery Channel. While in New York, Petersen was a volunteer coordinator for the NYC Ron Paul Meet-up group, and used his audio/visual skills to promote the freedom movement both locally and nationally. Petersen was also an instrumental force in coordinating the efforts for the LP's BallotBase operations when it was tested leading up to the New Hampshire presidential primary last year.

Petersen attended Southwest Missouri State University (now MSU), acquiring a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Musical Theatre. He was honored with the Critics Choice award for Playwrighting from Samuel French.

The Libertarian Party is happy to welcome Austin into our Party!

State Leadership Conference Informs and Educates

By Andrew Davis

Over President's Day weekend, leaders of state parties from across the nation met in Las Vegas for the annual Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Leadership Conference. The conference hosted numerous speakers and workshops aimed at improving state affiliates' abilities to be an effective political party and increase the Libertarian Party's influence at the state level. Aside from the biennial LP National Conventions, the LSLA Leadership Conference is regarded as the biggest Libertarian event of the year, with attendees coming from across the United States to participate in the weekend's events. As such, the conference is a meeting of Libertarian activists, organizers, candidates, and financial supporters alike. More than 100 people traveled to Las Vegas to attend the conference and trained to become more effective activists and leaders within the Liber-



The Libertarian Party Platform Committee meets during the LSLA Conference in Las Vegas, NV.

tarian movement.

Workshops, classes, speakers and other events were all aimed at improving the Libertarian Party at the grassroots level, making the LP state affiliates more self-reliant and more effective at promoting Libertarian ideas where the party does best: locally. The multitude of events all taught a variety of skills that were meant for state affiliates to take back to

their respective states for implementation. Topics discussed at the conference included proper steps to filing with the Federal Election Commission, how to improve media relations and direct marketing strategies. The convention also hosted forums that helped state affiliates and other activists brainstorm about how to reach out to Republicans and Democrats now that their

numbers are at record lows.

One of the highlights of the LSLA conference was the presidential debate following a dinner at the conclusion of the conference. Many in attendance felt the presidential debate was a decisive debate for the future of the Libertarian presidential race, and felt the candidates had to prove themselves at this widely attended debate if they had any hope for attaining the nomination in May.

Seven Libertarian presidential candidates from the current field of 14 participated in the debate. These candidates were Jim Burns, Daniel Imperato, Bob Jackson, Michael Jingoian, Steve Kubby, George Phillies and Wayne Allyn Root. The debate was formatted in several rounds, with questions asked by the debate moderator, Jim Duensing, and then questions asked by the audience while ending with questions asked by the candidates themselves to an op-

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Event List Grows as Convention Approaches



By BetteRose Ryan

This year's convention is shaping up to be one of the most fun-filled, interesting, informational and action-packed conventions yet. Not only is there the business of the party, but there is so much more. From more breakout sessions than ever before, to more special events, this convention is set up not just for delegates, but also for friends and families of delegates, those interested in seeing just how the whole convention thing works and those just getting interested in the Libertarian

Party. Here is just an idea of the special events and other activities a convention attendee might find of interest:

Special Events top the list this year with discounts to the Colorado Rockies vs. the Mets game on Friday night, May 23. The organizers of the convention have arranged for special field level seating for only \$29 instead of the normal \$38. Everyone will be seated together, giving the Libertarian group a chance to shine! To order a ticket, the attendee

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INSIDE LOOK

More Features are Added As Convention Approaches

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should visit www.ColoradoRockies.com/groups (The Login is Libertarian, and the password is GoRockies.) Also on the discount, fun thing to do list is white water rafting! Spend part of the day Wednesday, May 21, riding the water in the beautiful Cleat Creek Canyon. This half-day excursion down the creek is only \$49 and if you order your ticket by April 15, using the reference #40094 you save an extra 10 percent. Remember to tell your convention planners if you sign up for this so adequate transportation can be arranged.

Other special events include two group tours of the U. S. Mint, an Evening with David Nolan, a Wednesday night masquerade party, a presentation by David Hoagland and a trip to the Red Rocks Amphitheatre on Thursday. Details of these special events will be on the DenverLpCon.com soon or send an inquiry to BetteRose@aol.com about any of these events.

The Speakers List has new additions all the time. Issue speakers include Jessica Peck Corry on private property issues, Bill Groom on restorative justice, Guy Smith on gun rights, Dr. Steven Frye on the drug war, Dr. Walter Block on libertarian economics, Anthony Gregory on person rights, and Jim Remmert on energy issues. Training speakers include: the Leadership Institute regarding grassroots campaigns; Dr. Gary Michael for leadership; Michael Cloud on personal fundraising; Willy Star Marshall about how to get elected; Atty. Mark Rutherford on the use of Web, print and media to get elected; and Dr. Jim Lark regarding campus organizing. There will be panels with some of our guest speakers on everything from “how I got elected” to “how laws hurt minorities.”

Special Guest Speakers include Reggie Rivers, author and T.V. personality; David Harsanyi, author and journalist; Desiree Hickson, blogger and entertainer; Earl Allen, world traveler and former candidate; Anthony Gregeroy, writer and musician; Neal Boortz, talk show host; Sharon Harris, President of the Advocates for Self Govern-

ment; and Michael Cloud, author and co-founder of the Center for Small Government. One of our speakers, Craig Shirley, will no longer be participating in this event. His company has signed a contract with a presidential candidate and he feels this would be a conflict of interest. He will be missed.

Roundtable discussions will be another interesting way to spend time at the convention. These informal sessions are in addition to the almost 40 hours of seminars being offered at this convention. Offered first thing in the morning and at various times throughout the day, these discussions will cover everything from how much our younger libertarians mean to the movement to new voting systems to tax discussions. These open discussions allow for everyone to have a voice on the topic.

The business part of the convention will be just as exciting as the non-business sessions. There will be platform debates as the platform committee introduces a new set of planks for the delegates to consider and the bylaws committee will also have changes to suggest. Of course, there is the nomination of our candidates for president and vice president. Both are hotly contested races. Delegates are encouraged to learn all they can about these candidates since it is the delegates who determine who will be in our debates and who will get nomination time on the stage. Next, there will be the elections of the LNC officers and at-large representatives and elections of the judicial committee. Finally, let’s not forget the passage of resolutions.

A Bonus and a possible FREE convention pass are waiting for those signing up for the convention before April 15th. There will be something extra in their convention bags. No, the convention planners are not talking about what that something might be, but be sure to look for it. In one of those bags, there will be a gold ticket that will be redeemable for a refund of the bag holder’s convention package. To top it off, a ‘special’ second gift will appear in two other bags.

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Convention Hotel Offers Guests Luxury and Utility

By BetteRose Ryan

The Adam’s Mark hotel (soon to be a Sheraton), located at 1550 Court Place, is one of the finest hotels in Denver and has attracted many high power visitors during its life. President Bush spent time in this hotel during his time in office, and some of the most important events ever to hit Denver have been held at this hotel. The hotel speaks of old time elegance with its wide-open lobby and high ceilings. Two life size statues of horses greet guests in the main lobby and are a ‘meet me in the lobby’ landmark.

The hotel actually consists of two hotels joined by a sky bridge, located on the second floor and by the convention area. The plaza hotel area is a seven-story structure, and the tower is a 22-story building; each has its own lobby and ballrooms. While this may sound intimidating to a convention attendee, the convenience is there on the convention floor. Two elevators, steps from one another, will take the attendee to one lobby or the other. This gives the two buildings an integrated feel. The parking garage also joins the two buildings, so accessing one’s car is easy.

Reaching the hotel from the airport can be done by taxi, Airport Shuttle (available every 15 minutes from 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM) and the RTD SkyRide. The taxi is the most expensive, but if you are traveling with companions, it might well turn out to be a not too expensive and convenient way to travel. The Super Shuttle is less expensive than the taxi and does have round trip coupons available (attendees will find information about a group rate in their confirmation packets). The Sky Ride is not a door-to-door service, but is the next best thing.

Catch the bus outside the airport baggage claim door and travel to downtown Denver with only four stops. At the Market street station, transfer to the free 16th Street mall shuttle, which stops at the corner of the Adam’s Mark build-



Hotel will offer world class accomodations for convention attendees.

ing. While not as convenient as other means of reaching the hotel, it is much cheaper and is a comfortable ride. If you are arriving by car, the hotel has also reduced its parking charges to \$10 per day, should an attendee drive or rent a car.

The Adam’s Mark hotel has been sold to the Sheraton chain of hotels. This sale has been pending for many months but the deal finally closed recently. The Adam’s Mark, already a first class hotel, will be under going some renovations to make it a diamond hotel. These changes will not be taking place during our convention. In fact, these changes are due to take place after the WorldCon--the year’s largest SciFi convention--and the Democrat convention happens in August of this year. Not to disappoint, the staff will already be offering its diamond service to all.

So, when coming to Denver, remember to look for the Sheraton sign at 1550 Court Place, and if taking public transportation, remember to say the “old Adam’s Mark, now a Sheraton” because some things change slowly.

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party:

“To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.”

THE MAILBOX

Fair Election Protest

I'm new to the Libertarian Party so this might sound a little naive. Why hasn't each state's Libertarian Party protested at their capitols demanding fair elections? In my state, Illinois, the battle just to get on a ballot wastes so much time and money that there's nothing left for the actual campaign. I'm assuming other states have similar roadblocks for third parties. Libertarians in each state should hold a massive protest in front of their state capitol calling for a change in the rules. Alert the media! Email, call and fax your "representatives." Become a thorn in everyone's side. Make it known that our "leaders" will not get our vote unless they pass a bill putting everyone on an equal playing field. Show these republicrats that third parties need to be included if we are ever going to have an actual democratic process. Elections need to be a free market, too. We could get the Green Party, the Constitution Party and others to join us.

The party should focus on state elections first and then use that as a stepping stone into the US Senate and House seats. Why, after 37 years, does this party still not hold ANY federal offices? I can barely find state libertarians. I would imagine a party that just increased its membership by 25 percent last year would have the army to pull off such a stunt!

Mark Buraglio
Champaign, IL

State of the LP

This is my personal report on the state of the LP. I attended the recent get

together in Las Vegas and it's always uplifting to be among friends. My impression of the presidential candidates debate is that we need to do much better. In their own right the participants are a good group but not worthy of any effort on our part to sell the American people on their viability as our next president.

In the past two years the LPNH has had visits by many seeking the presidency, mostly as libertarians. I couldn't commit to support any of them. There are in my opinion two options, we get a commitment from Ron Paul and go with him as our first choice or we revert to the 2006 LPNH endorsement of Dr. Mary Ruwart. "If you liked Ron Paul, you'll love Mary Ruwart" sounds right to me.

The other proposal I have and briefly got to mention at the chairs meeting is we need to sponsor events that include other groups. My suggestion is that we have a national freedom day. I believe the Sunday before Labor Day is the right time. I feel a peaceful noon time gathering of all freedom lovers at the state capital of all the states, should be, with months of planning a huge event.

This ROAR meeting, "Restore Our American Republic" should be a great attention grabber for our struggle for liberty and getting our candidates elected. I will be a candidate for the NH house in Nov. and urge all libertarians to take advantage of the excitement caused by the Ron Paul Revolution to get involved and run for office. We've never had an opening like this for our party and we must take full advantage.

Brendan Kelly is the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire

Speaking Out is Patriotic!

As Libertarians, speaking out is nearly second-nature. This is why we have "The Mailbox" in LP News. Feel free to write in to editor@lp.org to express your opinion on any issue, and you just may find it in the next edition of the paper.

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Wayne Allyn Root
Libertarian Candidate for President

About Wayne:

- **Communicator:** Spoken 25+ years to audiences as large as 8000+.
- **Celebrity:** Known to millions of online gaming & poker enthusiasts, all potential voters and contributors.
- **Homeschool Parent:** Married with four young children.
- **Prolific Fundraiser:** Raised \$20+ million dollars for his businesses.
- **Successful Small Businessman:** Presents the ideal image for the LP.
- **Public Figure:** Frequent guest on Fox News, Fox Business, CNBC, Bloomberg, MSNBC, CNN, ABC, ESPN, and radio talk shows across the country. Profiled by Wall Street Journal, Fortune, Success, Entrepreneur, Equities, Robb Report, and Millionaire Magazine.

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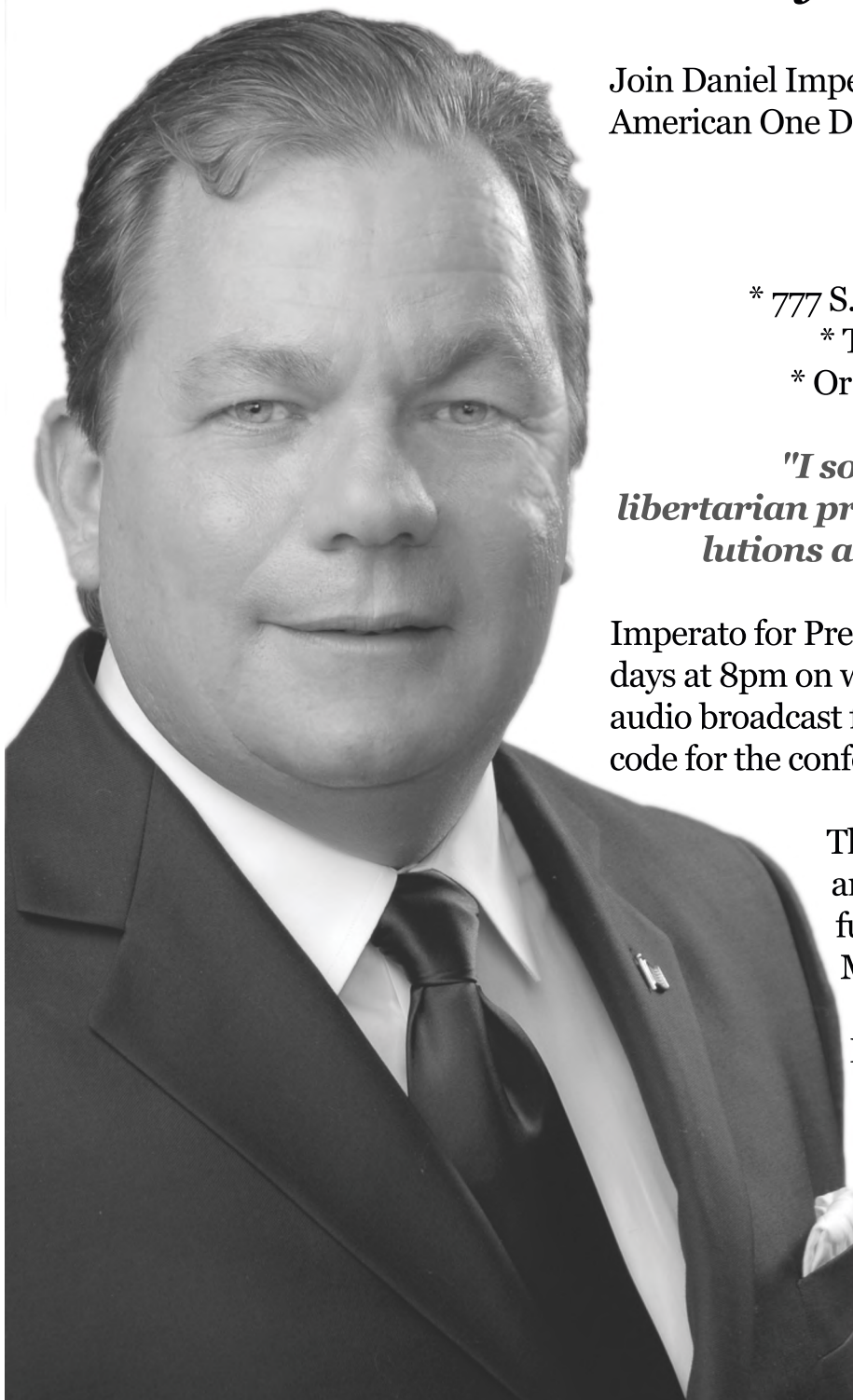
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Imperato for President 2008 will also have weekly web broadcasts Wednes-
days at 8pm on www.imperato2008.com Viewers can also dial in to the
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code for the conference call is *8706685*.

The broadcast is hosted by i1connect (www.i1connect.com)
and is available for use by Libertarian Candidates for events,
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COMMUNICATING LIBERTY

Win Them Over With the Most Surprising Communication Technique

By Sharon Harris

Here's a powerful, proven communication technique that's not about speaking. In fact, it's about...not speaking. It's about the misunderstood, too-often ignored art of listening. Wait! Don't turn the page! I know, the idea of learning to listen doesn't sound very exciting, but believe me, learning this will enormously enhance your ability to communicate ideas. So please take a moment to -- listen.

According to communications writer Eugene Raudsepp: "Studies show that only about 10 percent of us listen properly. Most of us don't know how to listen intelligently, systematically and purposefully." This means that, if you're like most people, your listening skills can quickly be improved -- and if you do that, you'll have a powerful communication skill 90 percent of the population lacks!

Effective, active listening is definitely a skill, and it is a crucial skill to develop if you want to be a successful communicator of libertarian ideas. Like any skill, active listening can be learned, practiced, and improved, and the pay-off is huge.

The Greek philosopher Zeno of Citium said, "We have been given two ears and but a single mouth, in order that we may hear more and talk less." However, too many people -- including, alas, some libertarians -- act as if they have one mouth and NO ears! They seem not to care about the listener's

concerns and opinions; only their own. Ever been in a conversation with someone like that? How did you feel? Were you interested in what they had to say -- or did you want to run away?

If you want to be a successful communicator, you don't want to be like that speaker.

Effective communication has at least three parts: speaking, listening and (through that exchange) achieving understanding. Note that listening isn't just a stopping point on the way to communication -- listening IS communication!

Powerful listening is not passive. It's an active practice, as much as speaking is.

Here are the key principles:

First, before you start talking in depth about libertarian ideas -- stop! Stop and listen. Really listen to what the other person has to say. Don't just close your mouth and hold your breath while waiting impatiently for the other person to pause so you can jump in and unload your views. The other person can tell if you're really listening.

Instead, take a deep breath; exhale; relax; pay attention; give your full attention. Don't let yourself be distracted by other things going on. If it's not a good time to listen, tell the speaker and set up another time.

Don't interrupt. Don't twitch. Don't look around the room or look at your watch. Rein in your urge to interrupt or to finish a speaker's sentences. Let your body language show interest by nodding, raising your eyebrows, leaning forward, catching their eyes when

appropriate and so forth. Show you are supportive and friendly, and create a welcoming environment. Make sure the speaker has finished his thought before you speak. Patience! Make sure you understand the speaker's opinion, and if you don't, then ask him to clarify.

It is important to note that this isn't an act, and it's not just politeness. You want to be genuinely interested in his views because that's the only way you can understand his concerns, thoughts and worldview. Understanding him is the best way for you, in turn, to help him understand you.

If you truly listen, listen actively and well, you will reap a wealth of benefits:

First, you put the other person at ease. He or she will feel more comfortable and accepted, and will thus be more receptive to your ideas. When you show respect for other people, they will be more likely to show respect for you.

Second, you hear the other person's concerns, so that you can address them directly. This gives you an opportunity to build rapport -- one of the greatest enhancers of communication. Your listener is far more likely to listen with an open mind to you in return.

Third, you can find out misconceptions the other person may have about libertarianism and nip them in the bud. Because you've truly listened, you will know how to address those misconceptions.

Active listening is an incredibly powerful skill, and it works just as effectively in busi-

ness and personal relationships as it does in politics. People like a good speaker, but they LOVE a good listener!

Does this sounds simple? Too obvious? Take the challenge -- try it. You'll find that it's harder than it sounds and it works amazingly well.



Sharon Harris is president of the *Advocates for Self-Government*, which provides tools and training for successful libertarian outreach, including *Operation Politically Homeless (OPH)* and the world-famous *World's Smallest Political Quiz*. Find out more at www.TheAdvocates.org.

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

Alabama

Medicinal Marijuana

Alabama Libertarians, with the assistance of the Drug Policy Alliance, are once again spearheading legislative efforts to place the Alabama Compassionate Care Act in front of the entire state legislature. This will be the third year in a row that the legislation has been introduced. In 2006 and 2007, the bill cleared the Judiciary Committee, but has never made it to the legislative floor. This year, it is hoped that the bill will be referred to the Health Committee.

Libertarian Party gubernatorial candidate 2006, Loretta Nall, has been the key activist associated with the bill. She's been assisted by other key state Libertarian Party leaders, including Mark Bodenhansen, Mike Rster and Stephen Gordon. Additionally, a documentary is being filmed regarding this legislative attempt.

If passed, the bill will allow for the medicinal use of marijuana as a treatment for the following conditions: cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, chronic arthritis, cachexia, chronic pain, fibromyalgia, migraines, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), anorexia, seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy, and severe nausea.

Iowa

State Convention

The LPIA state convention will be held Saturday, March 15, at the Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale, from 8 A.M. till 4 P.M. The location of the hotel is just North of I-35/80 on 86th Street (near Winsong Theaters). For more information, please visit our Web site at www.LPIA.org, or contact Ed Wright at EB-4gpl@iowatelecom.net or (641) 747-2017

Kansas

Licence Plate Controversy

Kansas House Bill 2704 seeks to direct the KS Department of Motor Vehicles to issue "Distinctive In God We Trust License Plates" to any resident who orders one.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, LPK Vice Chairman Jason Peck appeared before the Kansas House Transportation Committee to testify against the bill on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Kansas. Peck's testimony was approved by the LPK executive committee 5-0-1 (one member did not vote because of an absence).

The written testimony can be seen at <http://boston-tea-party.info/lpks/hb2704.doc>, and a video can be seen at <http://boston-tea-party.info/lpks/hb2704.mov>. An article about the bill's testimony appears at http://cjonline.com/stories/021408/bre_license.shtml.

Despite Peck's many calls and emails to the Kansas ACLU over the course of the last two weeks, he has received no response, despite himself being a supporting member.

Among the bill's largest problems is that the DMV wants a deposit for the first order of roughly \$10,000.00. The bill's sponsor has no idea where it will come from, but when asked in the meeting, the sponsor stated: "Churches could raise the money easily."

According to Peck, it appears to be the beginning of a cozy relationship between Church and State.

Kentucky

State Convention

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky hosted an LP Presidential debate as a part of our 2008 state convention on March 1. We had a slew of people coming in to participate. Speakers at our convention included guests from the KY chapter of Club For Growth, and the BIPPS-funded (a libertarian think-tank) Web site KentuckyVotes.org, which tracks the actions of legislators in our state capital.

Louisiana

University Groups Started

Louisiana will be holding its annual Convention April 18-20 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lafayette. We will be selecting national delegates, electing new officers and debating a new platform.

So far, we have one candidate for this year's congressional races, Peter Vidrine of Eunice, in District 7, which is currently held by Dr. Charles Boustany, a Republican. We are looking to run a full slate this year, as well as fielding a candidate against incumbent Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu. Congratulations go to Mr. T. Lee Horne, III who ran our largest campaign to date in his bid for governor last fall.

We have established campus groups at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LSU in Baton Rouge and Loyola University in New Orleans, with prospects to open more on other campuses around the state.

We enjoy automatic ballot access by way of a measure we pushed through the Louisiana Legislature in 2004, which officially recognizes a party for access once they reach 1000 registrants and pay a \$1000 filing fee. To retain access, a party only needs to field a statewide candidate once every four years. Our first such candidate was Mr. S.B.A. Zaitoon, who ran for Insurance Commissioner in 2006 in a special election against two Republicans and captured 11 percent of the vote. Our second statewide candidate was Mr. T. Lee Horne, III, who ran for Governor in a 13-person field in 2007.

Massachusetts

Ballot Access

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has committed to attaining ballot access for our 2008 Presidential and U.S. Senate candidates. Robert J. Underwood of Springfield, who has repeatedly run for State Legislature, has agreed to run

for U.S. Senate. Springfield was vigorously congratulated by State Chair George Phil- lies, who in 1998, also ran for Congress. LPMass has raised \$8000 of matching funds, and has actually matched \$1500 of them. A meeting between LPMass Political Facilitator Carol McMahon, Phillies and Underwood showed agreement. The main effort of collecting 16,000 raw signatures will be done by paid petitioners, with a strong effort to recruit volunteer assistance.

Michigan

State Convention

The Libertarian Party of Michigan State Nominating Convention will be held Saturday, June 7, 2008, at the Best Western Gateway Hotel, located at 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, Michigan. For more information, visit www.mi.lp.org

Missouri

Heartland Conference

The 2008 Heartland Libertarian Conference will be held April 4 and 5, in Kansas City. Both Missouri and Kansas will hold their state conventions, and there will be an LP Presidential Candidate Debate, which will be broadcast live on two radio stations. It will also be broadcast live via the Internet by one of the radio stations. For more information, please visit <http://lpmo.org/heartland2008/>.

Montana

Run for Office!

Now that the election season is on in Montana, "we are encouraging people to run for office," said state chair Mike Fellows. Positions in the legislature, as well as statewide offices and local positions are available. Open, statewide, term-limited positions include: Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Auditor and Attorney General. The filing deadline is Thursday, March 20.

Libertarian T.V.

Missoula Libertarians continue to air their live public access show Other People's Pockets on Missoula Community Access Television, on channel seven. The show began in 1994, and airs the 1st and the 3rd Wednesdays of every month, starting at 8:00 P.M.

New York

State Convention

LPNY State Convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008 at The Reception House, Northern Blvd., Flushing, Queens from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The business meeting will begin at 9 A.M. to elect new party officers, consider changes to the bylaws and conduct other party business. In the afternoon, there will be speakers and presentations from some of the candidates seeking the LPNY presidential nomination.

The speakers include: Thor Halvorssen, of the The Moving Pictures Institute; Steve Marriotti, of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship; and Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove, of the Columbia School of Public Health and the Root Shock Institute.

New York Media

The Manhattan LP has been publishing and printing a publication called Serf City. Now the hard-hitting, indignant and irreverent content of Serf City is a blog near you. Any Internet user can now access the blog at <http://serfcity.wordpress.com>.

The Capital District Libertarian Party has been producing a public access Television show called Capital Outsider. To view current and past shows visit <http://capitaloutsider.org>.

Hardfire producer Gary Popkin is trying to get his engaging program on a cable access channel near you. Gary's show features the best in Libertarian discussion and engagement from all walks of New York life. To view previous shows of Hardfire, go to <http://Hardfire.net>.

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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Ohio

Convention, Ballot Access and Party Growth

The Libertarian Party of Ohio's state convention will be held April 4-6 at the DoubleTree hotel on the north side of Columbus, Ohio. The key speaker on Saturday night will be Dr. Tom DiLorenzo, with radio personality Brian Wilson of WSPD radio in Toledo serving as the emcee. On Saturday night and Sunday morning, the LPO will have four of the leading LP Presidential candidates in attendance. They are Bob Jackson, Michael Jingoian, George Phil- lies and Wayne Allyn Root. For details on housing and registration fees, please visit www.LPO.org.

Ohio continues to move forward in pursuit of less restrictive ballot access laws. There are ongoing meetings with state legislative members and the Ohio Secretary of State office. Hopefully, this will be resolved by this summer.

Ohio is now the fourth largest state affiliate after a big national LP membership drive in Nov. and Dec. We will not be satisfied until we are in the top three in the nation.

Pennsylvania

Ballot Drive

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania is in the process of its ballot access signature drive. We need to get at least 24,666 valid signatures to get our statewide candidates, including President and Vice-President, on the November ballot. We have gotten an early start gathering signatures and look forward to a successful conclusion of our efforts.

We are continuing our efforts to promote legislation rejecting the federal REAL ID Act in Pennsylvania. We have been working with legislators, concerned citizen groups, and even other political parties to halt this expansion of government authority and preserve our liberties. We had hoped for a relatively quick reso-

lution of the issue, however it seems the Department of Homeland Security and our Department of Transportation would like more time to explain the benefits of keeping personal drivers license information in a federal database.

We hope to have a very informative meeting with a number of LP Presidential candidates at our convention March 14-16, 2008. We are anticipating a very interesting Presidential campaign and nomination in Denver this May, and hope to see everyone there.

Texas

Portal of Information

The Libertarian Party of Texas Web site, www.LPTexas.org, has lots of news information and a very active discussion forum. Visitors to the site can subscribe online to our monthly newsletter "Lone Star Liberty." After only two years of this service the number of subscribers has now exceeded 1200. Please visit our Web site to stay informed about our activities.

National Convention

The Libertarian Party of Texas currently has over 40 people approved as delegates to the national convention in Denver. If other Texas Libertarians would like to have a seat in our delegation and cast votes on important business (party leaders, presidential nomination, platform, etc) contact our staff at 512-442-4910 or Director@LPTexas.org.

New Staff Addition

The Libertarian Party of Texas has hired its newest staff member Patrick Barton. Patrick joins Art DiBianca as a staff member working under the direction of our executive director Wes Benedict. Patrick is a recent graduate of the University of Richmond where he majored in History, International Studies: Diplomacy & Politics and made the Dean's List and National Honors Society. He participated in the Congressional Student Leadership Conference in Washington DC and

was a Field Assistant for the Brownback for President campaign.

Chairman's Debate

State Chair Pat Dixon presented the issue of Global Warming on the weekly television show Live and Let Live on Dec 22 of last year. The video has been uploaded and posted on Google video. It can be found at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=617434640025336908>

Utah

"Mock the Vote"

Who will be the Libertarian Party's next presidential candidate? Libertarian Party of Utah chairman Rob Latham announced the launch of an online demonstration election to illustrate how voters might narrow the field of 18 announced candidates for the party's presidential nomination -- plus "None of the Above" -- down to one majority winner -- in just one election.

Voters can "Mock the Vote" for the 2008 Libertarian Party presidential nomination by visiting <http://www.demochoice.org/dcballot.php?poll=2008LPPres> online. The demonstration election launched and administered

by Latham uses the ranked-choice voting method, which allows voters to indicate their preferences among several candidates instead of being limited to choosing just one.

"Ranked-choice voting has a track record of promoting positive campaigns and saving election administrators, participants, and taxpayers the significant costs associated with a separate runoff election," says Latham. In 2006, voters enacted into law all four local initiatives to adopt ranked-choice voting on the ballot in the United States.

Although the demonstration election for the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee is unscientific and can be manipulated by over-zealous supporters, some patterns and insights into the 2008 race should emerge. "Observers of 'Mock the Vote' should be able to see coalitions form around candidates with similar campaign platforms and bases of support," says Latham. "We may even be able to predict the eventual winner."

Through the party's national convention over the 2008 Memorial Day Weekend, Libertarians can track the presidential candidates' support -- or lack thereof -- using the online demonstration of this more competitive and representative electoral method, which is being implemented in more and more municipalities across the United States.

Vermont

State Convention

The VTLP state convention will be held on Saturday, March 29, at Orchid in South Burlington, Vermont. Events will begin at 11:30 A.M. More convention details will be made available on the Web site in the near future. Otherwise, contact Jeremy Ryan to RSVP or to learn more information. Ryan can be contacted at chair@vtlp.org, or by telephone at (802) 865-0111.

Paul Supporter Outreach

The Missouri LP is reaching out to Ron Paul supporters. The Missouri LP State Chair, Glenn Nielsen spoke to more than 200 Ron Paul supporters on Jan. 25 at the Southern Missouri Paul-a-thon. The story and videos of the speech at the Southern Missouri Paul-a-thon can be found at www.showmeblog.org/page/glenn?entry=missouri_lp_state_chair_speaks.

To access the Missouri LP Ron Paul supporter outreach page with a video message from the Missouri LP State Chair, visit <http://lpmo.org/RonPaulSupporters.shtml>. The Missouri LP also created a You Tube Channel, which can be found at www.youtube.com/MissouriLP.



Michael P. Jingoian
Libertarian for President
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Libertarian Party 2007 Annual Report

An executive analysis of the Libertarian Party’s performance in 2007



★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

A Nation Still Left to Peacefully Conquer

By William Redpath

It’s 2008, as I’m sure you have noticed. We are getting to the shank of the United States political season—the presidential election, along with the election of the US House and one-third of the US Senate. Then, there are the gubernatorial, state legislature and local elections, also.

However, before I turn my attention to 2008, I would like to recap what happened with the Libertarian Party in 2007.

I will leave it to the LNC’s Treasurer, Aaron Starr, to speak in more detail to the current financial situation of the LNC, but it is better than it has been in a long time. Accounts payable are essentially non-existent for us now. In comparison, four to five years ago, the LNC was in a condition of “financial exigency,” which was bad enough even without using a word of which I did not previously know the meaning. The financial situation of the LNC has stabilized, thanks to your financial contributions and the prudent expenditures by the LNC and national office staff.

Nonetheless, as you can see for yourself in the Treasurer’s Report, we are not an organization flush with cash—particularly in comparison with the R’s and D’s. We have a world (or at least a nation) to peacefully conquer, and it is a sad fact that it will take much in the way of financial resources to do that; however, more on that later.

At the end of 2007, LP sustaining (a euphemism for “currently financially contributing”) membership was up more than 20 percent from the end of 2006. The membership by state, as of December 31, 2007, can be seen in the ac-



LP National Chairman William Redpath.

companying table. Total “zero dues” members increased from 104,732, by the end of 2006, to 107,748, as of December 31, 2007.

Now, turning to the topic that is the *raison d’etre* for this organization: candidates.

With 2007 being an “off year” for elections, we, of course, did not run as many candidates as we did in 2006. In 2007, we ran 98 candidates, of whom 19 won election to public office. According to LP Political Director Sean Haugh (a 2007 addition to the national office staff, I might add), the LP ran 634 candidates nationwide in 2006.

According to Haugh, we are fixin’ (a little Texas talk here, as a nod to the LP of that fair state, which consistently runs many candidates for public office) to run over 1,500 candidates nationwide for public office in 2008, with 564 already recruited to run. Please consider adding your name to the roster of LP candidates in 2008, so that we can meet that goal. In nearly all states, there is still time to get your name on the ballot and run a campaign of which we all will be proud.

With respect to ballot access for our presidential ticket, the LNC is still aiming to qualify in 48 states. Barring some major,

See Chairman on Page 13

2004-2007 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

	December-04	December-05	December-06	December-07
Total Assets	97,897	39,598	62,006	148,702
Total Current Liabilities ***	504,607	404,410	1,401,370	1,358,040
Total Net Assets	(406,711)	(364,812)	(1,339,364)	(1,209,339)
Change	(481,824)	41,899	(974,552)	130,025

*** Change in reporting method of liabilities were explained in last year’s report concerning valuation of Lifetime Membership and Deferred Membership Liability

2004-2007 Revenue & Expense Summary

	2004 Annual	2005 Annual	2006 Annual	2007 Annual
Support and Revenue				
Membership Dues	439,327.61	417,337.31	0.00	470,113.62
Donations	710,435.96	664,548.41	799,062.23	482,592.08
Recurring Gifts	351,888.57	307,715.28	326,157.42	317,955.77
Board Member Solicitations	0.00	0.00	0.00	86,737.80
Projects	192,378.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ballot Access Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	81,097.85
Campus Outreach Donations	0.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00
Convention Revenues	214,009.55	0.00	101,956.10	0.00
Publications, Materials and Other Sales	103,254.39	92,749.97	51,836.30	5,730.15
Total Support and Revenue	2,011,294.69	1,482,350.97	1,283,512.05	1,444,227.27
Cost of Support and Revenue				
Fundraising Costs	182,817.43	117,284.64	150,088.00	200,609.02
Membership Fundraising Costs	54,258.50	172,477.40	9,533.24	177,810.69
Convention	193,602.39	12,388.70	120,202.60	723.38
Direct Costs	30,230.65	14,691.38	14,618.64	0.00
Total Cost of Support and Revenue	460,908.97	316,842.12	294,442.48	379,143.09
Net Support and Revenue Available for Programs	1,550,385.72	1,165,508.85	989,069.57	1,065,084.18
Program Expenses				
Administrative Expense	533,020.33	326,560.64	312,906.52	349,769.13
Compensation	506,035.18	431,819.40	392,622.87	394,008.06
Affiliate Support	298,517.76	278,145.27	79,304.30	9,395.54
Ballot Access	268,709.51	6,677.87	1,500.00	62,807.82
Brand Development	349.50	0.00	19,425.47	4,255.14
Candidate Support	71,874.12	0.00	25,260.17	27,604.89
Media Relations	9,537.42	8,524.82	12,199.32	5,834.48
Member Communications	56,081.16	79,011.97	60,434.87	56,838.29
Outreach	553.06	0.00	1,032.50	21,075.12
Total Program Expenses	1,744,678.04	1,130,739.97	904,686.02	931,588.47
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(194,292.32)	34,768.88	84,383.55	133,495.71
Other Revenue/Expense				
Interest Income	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	18.20	4,597.55	6,523.72	0.00
Total Other Revenue Expense	19.58	4,597.55	6,523.72	0.00
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(194,272.74)	39,366.43	90,907.27	133,495.71

Libertarian Party

Annual Report

2007

★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY’S TREASURER’S REPORT

Libertarian Party Sees Ongoing Financial Improvement in 2007

By Aaron Starr

I am dedicating this column to Raymond Burrington. I never knew this man, but he knew us and believed in the principles upon which we stand. Mr. Burrington died in 2007 and made a large bequest to the Libertarian National Committee. We do not yet know the final amount of this generous gift, but it is estimated to be in the low six-figure range and we will realize the proceeds over the next few years.

It’s a tribute to our better nature that one man’s last desire was to see all of us succeed in restoring American values of liberty and freedom. You, too, can honor this man’s wish to improve your life. Create your own legacy by mentioning the Libertarian National Committee in your will.

I’m pleased to state that 2007 has witnessed an ongoing improvement of our financial position.

Our relations with our vendors have improved significantly, with some now agreeing to provide us with better pricing due to our more sound financial footing and our ability to pay suppliers promptly. At the end of 2007, we had more than \$113,000 in the bank, while amounts due vendors was zero.

Recorded revenues exceeded \$1.4 million during 2007, which is probably somewhat understated due to the value of the previously mentioned bequest having not yet been finalized. Even without this bequest, our revenues exceeded expenses by more than \$100,000.

The delegates in 2006 adopted bylaw language that I helped author, which requires our financial statements be in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Since becoming treasurer, I had staff revise our 2006 balance sheet to include as an obligation the deferred revenue of life memberships. Because we expect that a person who pays for a life membership could be around for more than 40 years, it’s not appropriate to recognize all of this revenue in the year of the contribution. Instead, it should be recognized ratably over the expected life of the donor. While this accounting recognition increases our liabilities and makes our financial position look drab, this obligation does not require immediate cash outlays.

Accurate historical information is not readily available, so it is unlikely that we will be able to create comparable financial statements from previous years using the same GAAP basis of accounting. So, while

we can present accurate financial information for the most current years, and should continue to on a go-forward basis, it will be difficult to make meaningful comparisons with prior years.



LNC Treasurer Aaron Starr.

Perhaps the most important task that is expected from a board member of any not-for-profit or cause-oriented organization is to raise money. At the beginning of my term I asked each board member to either personally raise a large amount of money or to personally give that amount during their term of office. This is commonly referred to as “give-or-get.” Understanding the seriousness of such a commitment, most all of the LNC stepped up to the plate, with many members agreeing to each give-or-get as much as \$5,000. I’m proud to state that LNC Board Members, so far this term, either gave or received in excess of \$150,000--well above our target.

If you intend to seek a position on the LNC at the convention, understand that this is a serious commitment and that you will be expected to assist the Party financially.

To those of you who give recurring monthly donations with your credit card, thank you very much. This steady source of cash flow makes it possible for an organization to focus on the future, rather than the crisis du jour.

At current support levels, we are able to cover our ongoing monthly expenses, so additional contributions at this point can be used to increase our political effectiveness in the marketplace of ideas.

The annual budget adopted by the LNC is conservative, with projected revenues of only \$1.4 million. Additionally, while we have budgeted for the basic ongoing costs of the organization, we do not yet have the funds necessary to achieve ballot access in every state. To get there, we’re going to need your help.

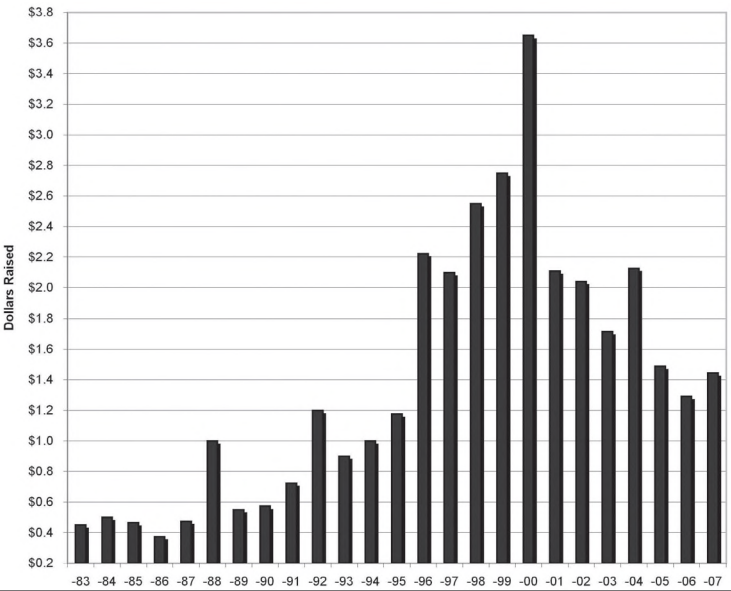
Please call the national headquarters today and increase your financial support to the Libertarian Party. With your help we can spread our message of freedom far and wide.

LP State-by-State Membership Numbers

Alabama	180	Montana	54
Alaska	74	Nebraska	64
Arizona	350	Nevada	218
Arkansas	72	New Hampshire	163
California	2,075	New Jersey	308
Colorado	462	New Mexico	135
Connecticut	198	New York	554
Delaware	48	North Carolina	355
D.C.	33	North Dakota	20
Florida	861	Ohio	569
Georgia	507	Oklahoma	108
Hawaii	54	Oregon	222
Idaho	64	Pennsylvania	574
Illinois	510	Rhode Island	30
Indiana	333	South Carolina	265
Iowa	112	South Dakota	35
Kansas	177	Tennessee	265
Kentucky	104	Texas	797
Louisiana	114	Utah	104
Maine	72	Vermont	39
Maryland	285	Virginia	523
Massachusetts	277	Washington	435
Michigan	511	West Virginia	55
Minnesota	206	Wisconsin	206
Mississippi	48	Wyoming	39
Missouri	261	Other:	56

Total Libertarian Party Members/Subscribers: 15,105
Total Number of Zero Dues Members [Signed Certificates]: 107,748

Libertarian Party Revenue From 1983 to 2007 (in millions)



Online Resources for Libertarian Party Members

Find contact info for the National Committee

www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: LNC Directory

Renew your membership

www.LP.org
Click on: Membership
Click on: Renew your membership or subscription

Stalwarts of Liberty

The Libertarian National Committee thanks the following renewing members:

*Renewal Period:
2/11/08 - 3/10/08*

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James W. Donaghy
Louis F. Fries III
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Paul Petersen
Kenneth D. Peterson
Richard Petty
Mark R. Phelps
David A. Phillips
Mark R. Pickens

Stalwarts of Liberty

Continued from page 10

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Frank Pittman	Joel Smith
William Plant	John Smith
Eric J. Pokorney	Neill Snider
Harry Pollitt	Steve R. Spencer
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C. R. Riewaldt	Chris Tillman
Stephen Riner	Robert Timmerman
Colin Rittgers	Scott C. Tips
Michael Robbins	Martha R. Treichler
Carol Roberts	John Treveer
Hugh Roberts	Edwin D. Tucker
David P. Robertson Jr.	Ronald C. Underwood
Joel Robinson	William Underwood
Zachary Robinson	John A. Van Huizum
John Roche	James R. VanMeter
Thomas A. Rosenberger	Jo A. Varley
Mike Rosing	Keith W. Velia
Lance Rosmaier	Allan Vickery
David J. Ross	Charles Vidal
Timothy Ross	William Vischer
Rob Rucker	Dean Wahls
Lewis C. Rudel	Robert Walczewski
John Rush Jr.	Terry J. Walraven
Mark Russell	Russell Walsh
Angela Sacks	Bruce Walters
Matthew Sanders	Robert L. Warasila
Pamela A. Saporta	Terry Weiderhaft
Benja Sariwatta	Philip Weigand
Keith W. Satermo	Jack Weinberg
Charles Schade	Edward Wells
Susan Scheetz	Steven T. Wells
Peter E. Schlosser	John Werden
Leslie Schnaubelt	William Wesley
Andreia Schreiber	Randolph J. Westfall
Olivier Schreiber	John M. White
Herb Schultz	James Widner
George Schwappach	Daniel P. Wiener
Marshall E. Schwartz	Christopher Wisniewski
Stephen J. Schwartz	Eberhard P. Woerz
Kevin Scoggin	David Wojcik
Jay W. Segroves	Leslie S. Wolfe
Ken Selecter	Henry Wood
James C. Shahan	Wilbur N. Wood III
Paul Shamoun	John M. Wooley
Francis M. Sharp	Ralph D. Xander
Hendrik W. Sharples	Laddie D. Yamada
Joel Shaver	Randy Young
Paul D. Shook	Harvard Zago
Craig J. Sickler	Edmund Zanini
Matthew W. Simon	C. K. Zero
Vernon Sinclair	John G. Zeroth
Jesse Slater	David Zimmerle
Helen I. Slavens	Donald Zrudsky
Hugh Smalley	Jonathan Zwickel

POLITICS 2008

N.C. Ballot Cluttered Again

By Brian Irving

The filing period for the November election is now closed, and North Carolina's ballot is once again cluttered with candidates. That is, cluttered with candidates running unopposed for General Assembly. Nearly 40 percent of the candidates running for the state legislature will get a "free" ride into office, paid for by North Carolina taxpayers -- even those taxpayers denied a chance to run for office in the party of the choice.

"These races are not just unopposed," says Barbara Howe, state chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. "They are 'unoppose-able.' The Democrats and Republicans have gerrymandered the districts and restricted ballot access to anyone but themselves to guarantee they maintain control of state government."

There are 52 unopposed candidates in the 120-member House, and 13 candidates running unopposed in the 50-member Senate. All the unopposed candidates are incumbents with the exception of only one, and only one other has a primary challenge. One of the unopposed candidates is Rep. Thomas Wright (Dem-18th District), who is pending trial for

fraud and may be expelled from the House for ethics violations.

"Of course, the Democrats and Republican will claim this is better than previous General Assembly elections because in 2002 and 2004 close to half the seats were unopposed," says Howe. "It still is a symptom that North Carolina does not suffer from 'ballot clutter,' but 'ballot deficit disorder.'"

In previous attempts to reform the state's ballot access laws, arguably the most restrictive in the nation, some legislators argued that multiple candidates would "clutter the ballot" and confuse voters. However, Howe scoffs at this argument. "We have a deficit in the number of candidates allowed to run and a deficit in the quality of candidates put forth by the so-called two major parties," states Howe.

Libertarians assert the two so-called major parties are actually a political duopoly whose sole purpose is to maintain its grip on power. Howe says the two parties "collaborate in gerrymandering the districts to create 'safe' seats for their anointed candidates, and divide the spoils."

There are 30 Democrats and 13 Republicans running

See Ballot on Page 13

Ohio Fastest Growing LP Affiliate in 2007

By Jeremiah Arn

Libertarians in Ohio are excited about the amazing growth in membership last year. The Party announced this month that Ohio overtook Illinois, Virginia, Michigan and New York in becoming the fifth largest body of Libertarians in the United States as of December 2007. Ohio is currently the fourth largest state affiliate.

"Thanks to everyone that renewed, and all the state Party members who encouraged friends, family members and neighbors to join the Party," said Libertarian Party of Ohio State Treasurer Mike Johnston. "We know Ohioans work hard to earn a living, and this effort shows a commitment to the ideals of liberty."

The national Party convention is May 22-26, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. Ohio Libertarians have earned seats on the Platform and Credentials committees in addition to 40 delegates to the National Convention. In 2004, the state only sent six people to the National Convention.

"Ohioans really listened to the challenge from the Party and got involved in this drive," said Kevin Knedler, state chair of the LPO. "Ohio is positioned to have a significant impact on the National Convention in May. This is a great success we can be proud of."

Ohio was the fastest growing affiliate in Nov. and Dec. of 2007, with Pennsylvania having only six more members than Ohio,

See Ohio on Page 13

Alabama Libertarians Disapprove of State Smoking Ban Proposal

By Stephen Gordon

Late last month, the Alabama Senate Education Committee voted 7-1 for a bill which will significantly impact the rights of business owners, employees and consumers throughout the state. The bill, sponsored by Education Committee Chairperson Vivian Davis Figures (D-Mobile) will outlaw smoking a cigarette, cigar or pipe in most restaurants, bars, retail stores, malls, transportation hubs and most other indoor places in Alabama where the public is invited or allowed. This bill, already endorsed by the Senate Democratic Caucus, will now go to the full Senate for consideration.

For the most part, there are very few malls and retail outlets in the state that allow smoking inside their premises. Some airports, such as Huntsville International, will be impacted by this legislation, should it pass. Many bars and restaurants across the state will be hurt by this bill.

"It's a matter of basic property rights and individual liberty," said Libertarian Party of Alabama Chair Stephen Gordon. "Business owners have the right to determine practices within their own facilities. Customers should have a right to make their own decision about whether they wish to go to a smoking or a non-smoking establishment, or to sit in a smoking or a non-smoking section. Apparently Senator Davis feels entitled to pass laws which deprive our citizens and our business owners of the right to make their own decisions. She is attempting to deprive people of the right to make their own choices by using the force of law to make these personal decisions for everyone in the state."

There is no law in Alabama at this time that mandates that people seek employment in food or entertainment establishments which allow smoking, nor is there any law in place which mandates that customers use such facilities.

"Currently, common sense and the free market are working well to determine where one may or may not smoke," Gordon continued. "In my general community, there are bars which proudly advertise on the air about their smoke-free status. Others allow smoking. Customers and employees have choices, courtesy of the free market. Common sense responsible practices also work. For example, the Huntsville airport allows smoking one floor up, way around the corner well off the beaten path, behind closed doors and with a (presumably) separate ventilation system. One would indeed have to try very hard to accidentally run into any second hand smoke there."

The majority of newspaper reports in Alabama aren't even providing an opposing view to the proposed legislation. That this legislation was initiated in the Senate Education Committee, as opposed to the Health or Small Business Committees, makes public statements that this bill is aimed to protect the health of Alabamians suspect. Instead, this legislation is a direct attack on property rights, individual liberty and the free market.

If this situation truly involves a motivation for the public good, this legislation needs to be

See Ban on Page 13

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2/11/08 - 3/10/08

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Branimir D. Zdunich
Kory Zipperer
Kathleen Zobel

The Libertarian National Committee welcomes our newest members

LSLA Conference Empowers Affiliates



Florida State Chairman Karl Dickey sits with his wife before the LSLA Presidential Debate in Las Vegas.

Continued from page 1

ponent of their own choosing.

There were many issues of contention among the presidential hopefuls, but most of the debate revolved around the candidates trying to establish themselves as the most qualified candidate rather than debating direct policy questions.

Following the conclusion of the LSLA conference, the Libertarian National Committee met for their quarterly board meeting. This was the first board meeting of the New Year, and the first time the board has met since the December 2007 meeting in Charleston, SC. During the LNC meeting, the board passed a resolution calling for withdrawal from Iraq without "undue delay." The resolution passed overwhelmingly with 12 votes

in affirmation, two in opposition and one abstaining vote.

Other business undertaken by the LNC during the weekend's meeting included a new committee being voted into existence that will investigate how to better conduct outreach to women and minority groups. LNC members Angela Keaton and Stewart Flood will serve on the committee. The committee will be financially self-supporting in its trial phase, with an evaluation on its effectiveness after one year.

This year's conference was organized by Nevada State Chairman Jim Duensing. Next year's conference will be organized by Alabama State Chair Stephen Gordon, who was elected Chairman of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance during the 2008 conference.

From the National Chairman

Continued from page 8

earmarked contribution coming in the door, the LNC will not be funding petition drives in Oklahoma, West Virginia and the District of Columbia for the 2008 election. I, and others, are not happy about this, and we hope that we will return to doing these drives for 2012. However, all three would be expensive petition drives (with the likelihood of very few Libertarian votes in DC), and the combined population in these two states and DC is less than 2 percent of the entire population of the United States.

If we are able to get our presidential ticket on the ballot in the other 48 states, it will be the sixth time in its history that the Libertarian Party will qualify its presidential ticket for more than 98 percent of the voters of the United States.

In the last 70 years, no other currently-functioning minor political party in the United States has accomplished that even once, with the exception of the Reform Party when it either had Ross Perot or federal money backing it.

That would be an incredible accomplishment for the Libertarian Party, and one that can come to fruition, though not without your generous financial and in-kind (please do volunteer petitioning!) contributions. Becoming a monthly recurring donor (as I am at \$83.34 per month, but please don't consider that a ceiling) to the LNC might be the best way to do that. Please give Louise Calise a call at (202) 333-0008, x. 235, or send an email to louise.calise@lp.org to set you up as a monthly recurring donor today. I will be forever grateful if you do.

Ohio Membership Surges to Become Fourth Largest Libertarian State Affiliate

Continued from page 11

while Texas was in the number three spot with 228 more members. The leading state affiliate of the national Libertarian Party is California, with four times the members of Ohio.

The Libertarian Party of Ohio conducts outreach to fellow Ohioans through candidates for public office, issue-based activities such as gun shows and voter registration drives, petitioning for ballot access or constitutional amendments, county development, media releases and interviews.

If you want to get involved

in any of this outreach, simply email Ohio State Chairman Kevin Knedler at kknedler@columbus.rr.com.

If you would like to donate to the state party, please visit the LPO site. Online pledges are completely secure and VERY important to enable the Party leaders to budget. A pledge also entitles you to receive the physical newsletter by traditional mail.

If you have not joined or renewed your national party sustaining membership, you can be part of that effort by going to the national LP site at www.lp.org.

North Carolina Libertarians Unclutter Ballot by Contesting Races

Continued from page 11

unchallenged.

North Carolina Libertarians are very close to being able to challenge the two-party duopoly, Howe said. They are near completion of their ballot access drive, which requires them to collect about 70,000 verified signatures to be certified as a political party. They are about 3,000 signatures short of meeting that goal, and the deadline for the petitions is June 1.

"We hope to give the voters of North Carolina a real choice in these unopposed races," Howe says of the petition drive. The Libertarians will nominate candidates for the General Assembly and state offices at the convention April 11-13 in Burlington, N.C. In 2002, the party had candidates

running for a majority of the seats in the legislature, giving competition to a number of otherwise unopposed Republican and Democratic candidates.

North Carolina has arguably the most restrictive ballot access requirements in the nation. The state requires a new party to collect signatures from two percent of the number of people who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election to be recognized under state law. This equates to about 70,000 signatures -- five times more than the median requirement of any other state with similar rules. Following the petition requirement, the new party must receive 2 percent of the vote in order to maintain state recognition.

The Libertarians are challenging North Carolina's election laws in court. They filed suit in Sept.

2005, and were later joined by the Green Party. Several individual Libertarian and Green party members are listed as plaintiffs, along with the state parties. The suit asks the court to declare invalid all North Carolina's statutes regulating political parties. This includes the number of signatures required to get on the ballot and the number of votes need to retain ballot status.

A superior court judge recently denied motions for a summary judgment in the case. It is expected to go to a trial court in the near future.

The LPNC has their ballot access petition on line at www.lpnc.org. North Carolina residents may download and print the petition before sending the signed petition to LPNC, PO Box 28141, Raleigh, NC 27611.

National Convention Grows Even Bigger

Continued from page 2

As a reminder, a late registration fee of \$20 after May 12 will be added to each package, so early registration will get the attendee an extra gift and avoid the late registration fee as well.

All in all, the convention is the biggest Libertarian event held. But this event is no longer just for the delegate. A special convention package has been designed with non-delegates in mind: the Congressional Aide Pass. This low-cost pass offers the basic convention package plus all these seminars and breakout sessions for you to choose from! You also get full access to our exhibitor's area, where you'll find informa-



The Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, CO combines luxury with utility for the LP National Convention.

tion and goods about libertarian ideals and philosophers, books and authors, Presidential candidate booths and a Starbucks coffee place complete with a seating area -- all right across from the main convention hall on the same

level!

Learn more of what the Libertarian Party is all about! Don't miss out on these fun, informative sessions and exciting elections -- go to www.DenverLP-Con.com and sign up today!

Liberty'08 DECIDES



Libertarian Party Presidential Candidates - QUALIFIED for LD '08 (ranked in order by funds raised)

Wayne Allyn Root



- Hometown: Henderson, NV
- LD '08: **QUALIFIED**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$15,439
- More Info: www.rootforamerica.com

Daniel Imperato




- Hometown: Palm Beach, FL
- LD '08: **QUALIFIED**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$10,224
- More Info: www.imperato2008.com

Michael Jingozian



- Hometown: Sherwood, OR
- LD '08: **QUALIFIED**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$8,465
- More Info: www.resetamerica.com

Bob Jackson



- Hometown: Coloma, MI
- LD '08: **QUALIFIED**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$6,975
- More Info: www.bobjackson.org


Libertarian Party Presidential Candidates - Not Yet Qualified for LD '08 (ranked in order by funds raised)

Christine Smith




- Hometown: Arvada, CO
- LD '08: **Not Yet Qualified**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$2,335
- More Info: www.christinesmithforpresident.com

Steve Kubby




- Hometown: Ft. Bragg, CA
- LD '08: **Not Yet Qualified**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$1,277
- More Info: www.kubby2008.com

Alden Link



- Hometown: Newburg, NY
- LD '08: **Not Yet Qualified**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$1,035
- More Info: www.link-for-pres.org

Daniel Williams



- Hometown: Bonita Springs, FL
- LD '08: **Not Yet Qualified**
- Constitutionally: Yes
- FEC Filed: Yes
- LD '08 Total: \$25
- More Info: www.thenewlibertarian.org

Listed above are the candidates participating in the program who have met the three thresholds followed by those candidates who have at least filed with the FEC.

NOTE: The options of both "Future/Unannounced Candidate" and "None of the Above" have been offered to visitors of LP.org and have been listed on a Liberty Decides '08 direct mail piece. The totals are current as of 3/17/08. The option of "Future/Unannounced Candidate" has raised **\$2,096**. The option of "None of the Above" has raised **\$4,227**. Any candidate not listed on this page is either unannounced or they declined to participate in the Liberty Decides '08 program. For an alphabetical list of candidates go to, www.lp.org/libertydecides/alpha.html.

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION 2008

*Doug Anderson Bob Barr Neal Boortz Michael Cloud Steve Dasbach Anthony Gregory
Joe Johnson David Harsanyi David Hoagland Dr Gary Michael David Nolan Reggie Rivers*

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL * DENVER, COLORADO * MAY 22nd - MAY 26th

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ADDRESS 2 _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

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PHONE _____

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VISA/MC _____ Exp. _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Check enclosed Check Number # _____ payable to Denver LPCON 2008, LLC and mail to:

Denver LPCON 2008, LLC % Michele Poague or Bette Rose Ryan
21079 East Mineral Drive Aurora, Colorado 80016

Visit www.DenverLPCON.com
for full package descriptions.

- Packages:**
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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| _____ Vice Presidential \$389 | _____ Congressional Aide \$178 |
| _____ Senatorial \$299 | _____ Junior Congressman \$99 |
| _____ Speaker \$219 | _____ Vegetarian Meals Only |

- A La Carte Items:**
- _____ Convention Book \$35
 - _____ Convention Bag \$15
 - _____ Opening Reception \$25
 - _____ Breakfast with Speaker \$55
 - _____ Luncheon with Speaker \$55
 - _____ Floor Speakers \$35
 - _____ Presidential Banquet \$125
- A La Carte items sold with Package purchase only.



UPCOMING

WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON IN
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PLEASE LET US KNOW
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We Need Help!

The Libertarian National
Committee is looking to
expand its pool of ballot
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This is a perfect job for
students and retirees who are
interested in traveling and
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Good petitioners can earn
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Interested persons should
send contact information
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jobs@lp.org.

Event	Date	Location	Contact
HEARTLAND LIBERTARIAN CONFERENCE	APRIL 4-5	KANSAS CITY, MO	WWW.LPMO.ORG/HEART- LAND2008/
2008 MISSOURI LP CONVENTION	APRIL 4-5	KANSAS CITY, MO	WWW.LPMO.ORG/EVENTS/ CONVENTION/
LPO STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 4-6	COLUMBUS, OH	WWW.LPO.ORG
LP UTAH STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 5	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	WWW.LPUTAH.ORG
2008 LP NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 11-13	LAQUINTA INN BURLINGTON, NC	WWW.LPNC.ORG
2008 LP WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 12	COLISEUM BAR AND BANQUET CENTER MADISON, WI	JULIE FOX jfox1214@sbcglobal.net
TAX PROTEST RALLY	APRIL 12	STATE CAPITOL ST. PAUL, MN	BOB ODDEN BOBODDEN@HOTMAIL.COM
2008 LP MINNESOTA STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 13	HILTON GARDEN INN BLOOMINGTON, MN	WWW.LPMN.ORG/CONVEN- TION_2008/
EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETING	APRIL 21	LIBERTY CENTER	BOB ODDEN BOBODDEN@HOTMAIL.COM
PA PRIMARY DAY PETITIONING EFFORT	APRIL 22	PA POLLING PLACES	J. "MIK" ROBERTSON CHAIR@LPPA.ORG
2008 LP NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION	APRIL 26	RECEPTION HOUSE FLUSHING, NY	JEFF RUSSEL JRUSSEL776@AOL.COM
2008 LP NATIONAL CONVENTION	MAY 22-26	ADAM'S MARK HOTEL DENVER, CO	WWW.LPCONVENTION.ORG
LP MICHIGAN 2008 CON- VENTION	JUNE 7	TBA	WWW.MI.LP.ORG

Have you ever thought about running for
public office?

Running for public office is easier than you think. It is always
a great way to serve your community while promoting the
Libertarian Party. To obtain information about local races,
or for more information about how to launch your cam-
paign, contact your state chairman, or email Libertarian
Party Political Director Sean Haugh at Sean.haugh@lp.org.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARTY?

Each issue, we'll ask you a question, and the answer will be provided in the next issue of *LP News*.
Discussion on the question is welcome in "Letters to the Editor," space permitting.

Where were the last three LP National Conventions held?

LAST ISSUE'S LP QUESTION:
Currently, how many candidates are vying for the Libertarian Party's nomination for president?
ANSWER:
The Libertarian Party has 14 candidates running for its nomination as of 3/17/08.

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Members of the Libertarian National Committee pose for a group portrait during a board meeting last year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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News of Libertarian Party Candidates for Office

Question of the Day

Blog topics on LP issues

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information on the LP.

